



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



## SOUTH AFRICA: Safari Conservation Expedition™

Be on the front lines of animal conservation, and learn how to track, monitor and protect South Africa's most majestic wild animals.

### OVERVIEW

On this program you will experience life on two renowned game reserves and learn about hands-on conservation on the front lines. You might spot Africa's "Big Five" in the region — lions, leopards, elephants, Cape buffalo and rhino. By night, you'll live at a rustic Home Base on the reserve, hearing traditional stories and learning about tribal culture. By day, shadow wildlife conservationists in the South African bush on game drives to track and observe animals and learn about sustainably preserving the region's endangered keystone species.

#### 14-DAY PROGRAM

July 14 - July 27, 2024

Tuition: \$4,599  
Service Hours: 40  
Language Hours: 0  
Max Group Size: 30  
Age Range: 14-18  
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1  
Airport: JNB

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Assist with ongoing rhino conservation projects
- ★ Assist with the reserve's Anti Poaching Unit to do snare sweeps and checks and telemetry monitoring of some endangered species
- ★ Work alongside conservationists to create identity kits for the Giraffe population on the reserve that will go into a research database
- ★ Learn how Track and monitor various wildlife movement on a renowned reserve
- ★ Spot Africa's "Big Five" wild animals
- ★ Kayak down the Tugela River to enjoy a bonfire as you camp under the stars
- ★ Experience tribal culture and traditional storytelling

## 21-DAY PROGRAM

June 20 - July 10, 2024

Tuition: \$5,999  
Service Hours: 60  
Language Hours: 0  
Max Group Size: 30  
Age Range: 14-18  
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1  
Airport: Arrival (JNB) /  
Departure (DUR)

### SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Join conservationists in the field, assisting with habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring. Help create a database of Identity kits of Giraffes on the reserve, learn about anti-poaching, undertake a snare patrol to identify leopards, and learn from wildlife protectors about their experiences fighting poachers. Track the movements of Lions & Cheetahs and other wildlife by satellite, and learn how rangers set camera traps—join them in combing through video footage. Finally, learn how the surrounding local community is critical to long term, sustainable conservation.

### SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

*Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session.* The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



#### DAY 1: WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA!

Touch down in Johannesburg, the heart of South Africa! GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to a local hotel for an overnight stay in Johannesburg. Rest up, because we'll be heading out early the next morning for a road trip to Home Base in the African bush.

#### DAY 2: SUNSET IN THE RESERVE

We'll travel for most of the day, making our way to Home Base on the game reserve. While the drive is long, the views of South Africa are breathtaking. Take the time to get to know your fellow travelers before we arrive for a traditional welcome lunch. After lunch, we'll hike down to our homebase for the next few days where you can settle in on the vast and peaceful grounds, located right along a biodiversity corridor where migratory animals travel.





## DAY 3- 4: KAYAKING DOWN THE TUGELA RIVER TO A BUSH SLEEPOUT UNDER THE STARS

Prepare to experience a bush sleepout where we'll camp out in comfy tents with stretcher beds. Professional field guides will help keep watch. While at camp we'll learn more about tracking animals on foot, go on bush walks to study the region's biology and ecology and just enjoy being in nature. At night, we'll go on an Aardvark night walk to see if we can spot these elusive creatures.

We will end with an open-fire cooking competition under the starry night. Team up and show off your skills!



Ever wondered how scientists figured out that birds go South for the winter or how much birds weigh? On Day 4, we assist conservationists with their mist netting & bird ringing research project. Students will help take note of the morphological data like weight, size and health. In the afternoon, we're working to develop Giraffe Identity Kits for the giraffes on the Zingela reserve. You will learn how to track, survey and identify Giraffes, take photos and develop kits that can be used by conservationists to identify individual animals. This important data helps conservation teams monitor their health and population on the reserve



## DAY 5: TRANSFER TO NAMBITI BIG FIVE GAME RESERVE

After a short transfer from Zingela Reserve to Nambiti Big Five Game Reserve, students will hike out of the valley to take in the magnificent views of this reserve.

As this will be our main service site, we will get an overview of the research being conducted on the reserve as well as an introduction to the use of telemetry to track and monitor animals.

After dinner, a night drive will introduce you to the nocturnal wildlife species that one normally does not see during the day. You will get involved in monitoring activities that will help to collect data on these lesser known species!



## DAY 6 -10: CONSERVATIONISTS IN TRAINING

Over the next few days, we'll get stuck into service work around the reserve. We'll split into 3 groups and rotate through the different service work the reserve has asked us to assist with. Each student will have the opportunity to volunteer in each group:

- Group 1. Rhino Monitoring session, tracking black & white rhino with reserve monitors
- Group 2. Anti poaching unit session & snare removal
- Group 3. Reserve management support & camera traps monitoring

Monitoring of endangered species, such as rhino, is a critical management activity as it ensures that individuals and family groups are safe and thriving. You will learn how to use telemetry, how to identify individual animals through their ear notches and how to capture the data so it supports the work of reserve managers and





the anti-poaching unit.

Be exposed to the important work of the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) and assist by checking if there are holes in fences (where poachers enter) and collect wire snares that are used to illegally hunt animals. Activities conducted with armed rangers

Ensuring the long-term protection of a wilderness area requires ongoing projects that manage road repair, broken fences, address alien plant invasion and assist with the overall management of the reserve. This rotation will be focussed on supporting these projects and getting involved in activities that expose you to the behind-the-scenes work of a wildlife reserve. Camera traps are cameras that are secured to trees and are triggered by movement. They are important tools for monitoring wildlife that are elusive (such as leopards) and/or nocturnal (such as hyenas). Camera traps are placed in strategic locations and photos are downloaded and analysed to find out what wildlife is in the area and it helps to monitor their movements and behaviour. This forms an important part of the research conducted in the area

Throughout the service , we'll learn from local biologists and conservationists about the issues that have reduced the Black Rhino population by 98% in the last thirty years. They range from land development to poaching for the illegal, international trade of rhino horn to parks being overrun by non-indigenous plant species..

Guaranteeing a rhino sighting is near impossible, as the animals graze and wander at their own will across the large sanctuary—but keep your fingers crossed! You'll be able to track their whereabouts in real time with the conservation team, and are guaranteed to see countless other wild animals daily at close proximity, like the African wild dog, impala, kudu, nyala, giraffe and many others.

## **DAY 11: LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE, TRADITIONAL STORIES & LOCAL CRAFTS**

Life on the reserve is very far removed from the tourist path, so prepare to encounter a wealth of traditional culture. Today you will spend the day in a local village to participate in specific projects that are being supported at the time. Project Rhino & Move Africa are local NGO's that we have worked with over the past few years, helping to facilitate their projects in the reserve's community.

Hear stories straight from the source by spending time with local families and enjoying tea with the community Gogo (grandmother). Try your hand at making traditional crafts and shop from artisans for handmade beadwork, intricate basketry and colorful pottery.

In the afternoon, we'll go on a Big Five Bush Walk. A highlight of a wilderness experience is having the opportunity to hike through the bush that is the animals' home. This is your opportunity to walk with experienced and qualified guides through the territory of the Big 5. While there is always the chance of seeing larger mammals, this is also an opportunity to learn about smaller animals on the reserve, as well as to identify the tracks and signs of the bush







## DAY 12 - 13: WILDLIFE SPOTTING & WRAPPING UP SERVICE

Rise early for memorable adventures driving through the misty game reserve. If we're lucky (and quiet), it's possible that we'll see tracked rhinos, elephants and lions while on our snare patrols. Time to comb through the last of the camera footage you collected from the camera traps and report back on your findings. Appreciate the majesty of these wild animals—how can we give them protection that lasts for generations?

## DAY 14 ONLY: DEPARTURE TO JNB

Time to say *Hamba Kahle*—"goodbye" in Zulu—to South Africa! We'll depart for the Johannesburg airport together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.

## 21 DAY ONLY

## ST LUCIA & CAPE VIDAL

## DAY 14: TRANSFER TO ST LUCIA & iSimangaliso WETLAND PARK



Adventure time! We'll get an early start and travel coastward to St Lucia Wetlands Park and Cape Vidal Game Reserve for the remainder of our program.

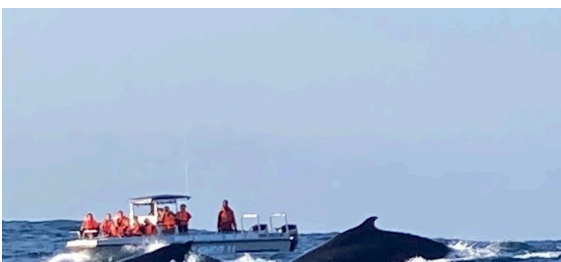
The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is one of the outstanding natural wetland and coastal sites of Africa. These include coral reefs, long sandy beaches, coastal dunes, lake systems, swamps, and extensive reed and papyrus wetlands, providing critical habitat for a wide range of species from Africa's seas, wetlands and savannahs. The interaction of these environments with major floods and coastal storms in the Park's transitional location has resulted in continuing speciation and exceptional species diversity. Its vivid natural spectacles include nesting turtles and large aggregations of flamingos and other waterfowl.

## DAY 15 - 17: CROCODILE CENTER SERVICE & BOAT HIPPO BOAT EXCURSION

Over the next few days, we will volunteer at the KwaZulu-Natal Crocodile Center, where we'll put in some hours by supporting conservation projects here ; supporting research and assisting with the centres daily needs for the crocs. In the afternoons, we will visit the local markets or go on a boat ride in the iSmangaliso Wetland Park estuary to spot some of the area's famous hippos & crocs!

## DAY 19 - 20: SERVICE , WHALE WATCHING & CAPE VIDAL

The whale season on the east coast of South Africa is from June - November. Humpback whales migrate to tropical waters in winter. Today we'll head out on a boat to admire these majestic animals and





learn more about why it's so important for us to protect these creatures.

We'll spend our final excursion day in Cape Vidal Game Reserve: Snorkeling and an open-vehicle game drive are on today's agenda. Check out the towers from which humpback whales are monitored on their migration up the African coastline.

## **DAY 21: DEPARTURE TO KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Time to say *Hamba Kahle*—"goodbye" in Zulu—to South Africa! We'll depart for King Shaka International airport (DUR) together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.

### **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES**

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

### **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate potential COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

## **TRAVELING TO SOUTH AFRICA**

**GLA HOME BASE** | On this safari adventure, students will lodge in several locations. Upon arrival in Johannesburg, the group will stay in a guest lodge. For the remainder of the program, Home Base accommodations include wooden cabins, canvas cottages, and a safari camp, which is outside under the stars. Students will share accommodations with roommates and have access to bathrooms, and enjoy communal meals as a group.

**FOOD** | Staples of South African food include rice and potatoes, stew with vegetables and chicken or beef served with *pap*, similar to cornmeal. *Braai* is a traditional barbecue that is a must-try for every visitor to South Africa.

**CLIMATE** | South Africa will be in its winter season in June and July, so expect sunny days and brisk evenings!

## **LEADERSHIP**



Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

## ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

**Global Leadership Adventures** was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

**The New York Times**

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

**The Boston Globe**

*seventeen*

## Our Expectations

### **Be present**

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

### **No tolerance**

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

### **Community-Led experiences**

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when

plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

### **Mentorship**

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

## **We're Here to Help**

### **Contact Us**

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

### **Enroll Now**

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at [www.experiencegla.com/enroll](http://www.experiencegla.com/enroll).